Pleasant Valley Fire District
District Policy

Restrictive Age Policy (Updated)

Purpose: To create and maintain a safe learning environment for junior firefighters ages sixteen (16) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age facilitating an atmosphere of teamwork, accountability, wellbeing, and trust to safely begin learning the many aspects of the fire service.

Eligibility: Junior Firefighters are considered a subclass of active firefighter membership. Junior Firefighters are considered active members for all purposes under the Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law.

- Between the ages of sixteen (16) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age and must be a resident of Pleasant Valley Fire District.
- The applicant must be in good physical condition and of good moral character.
- The applicant must attend high school, homeschooled at the high school equivalent or have a high school diploma/GED.

Application:

1. Any person applying for active membership in the Pleasant Valley Fire District at either Pleasant Valley Fire Company # 1 or the Salt Point Fire Company as a Junior Firefighter, must provide a signed and notarized signature of one (1) parent or legal guardian on the Application for Membership form *"Parental Permission",* granting the applicant's participation as an active junior firefighter.
2. Any person applying for active membership as a Junior Firefighter must provide with the membership application, a signed and notarized *"Pleasant Valley Fire District Physical Parental Consent Form"* granting permission for the applicant to complete a medical evaluation performed by the Pleasant Valley Board of Fire District approved physician.
3. Any person applying for active membership as a Junior Firefighter must undergo the Investigation Interview Process held by the Interview Committee as established by Pleasant Valley Fire District policy. A parent or guardian MUST accompany the applicant to the interview. An interview will NOT be conducted without a parent or legal guardian present. An arson form and sex offender registration form must be conducted and signed by the parent/guardian.
4. The Investigation Interview will include academic status - must maintain "C" average.
5. The Pleasant Valley Fire District may deny membership for any non-discriminatory reason.
6. Any person applying for active membership as a Junior Firefighter, must provide a signed by a parent or legal guardian, a *"Hospital Release Form".*
7. Once a Junior Firefighter has attained the age of eighteen (18), a written request to the Pleasant Valley Board of Fire Commissioners must be filed, asking for status change from active junior firefighter to active member. A new arson form and sex offender registration form must be conducted.

Duties: Junior Firefighters shall have no right to perform any operational assignment and shall only perform those assignments as the Chief or his/her designee sees fit to permit. Persons under eighteen (18) **SHALL NOT** perform any of the following activities until they reach the age of eighteen (18).

1. Serve as an interior firefighter. They may train to become an interior firefighter in a properly supervised course of instruction and become cleared as an interior at age 18.
2. Utilize hydraulic tools, except in properly supervised training.
3. Operate or drive emergency vehicles until the age of 21.
4. Perform roof operations, except in properly supervised trainings and only then with proper ladder belts.
5. Utilize power tools, except in properly supervised trainings.
6. Be present on the Taconic State Parkway during an actual emergency; If coming back from a call or training and the equipment responds to the Taconic State Parkway, Junior Firefighters shall remain in the apparatus.
7. Operate inside any hazardous environment.
8. Perform any other task which, in the sole judgment of the Chief, presents a substantial danger to the health or safety of the Junior Firefighter.

Limitations: Junior Firefighters are limited to the following rules and regulations.

1. May not hold any fire district or company officer position.
2. May be permitted to attend overnight standbys only if a signed note from a parent or legal guardian granting permission allowing them to attend.
3. Shall not be permitted to miss school for any fire district or company function while school is in session or while they are suspended from school.
4. No smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco products on all Pleasant Valley Fire District property and apparatus.
5. A 21:00 hours social hour curfew is established for Junior Firefighters, unless attending a firematic function/event/call.
6. Junior Firefighters shall not be alone with one officer.
7. Junior Firefighters who possess a NYS Junior Driver's License shall not drive to calls or Pleasant Valley Fire District /Company events between the hours of 2100-0600 per NYS Law.
8. Junior Firefighters must be transported to the appropriate fire station, and NOT to the location of the call.
9. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to respond to calls on the Taconic State Parkway.
10. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to use “Blue Lights”.
11. Junior Firefighters are not permitted to respond to mutual aid calls.
12. Junior Firefighters <17yo and not enrolled in NYS EMT class, are not permitted to respond in private vehicles to EMS calls, ride in the ambulance and/or provide patient care during EMS emergencies.
13. The New York State Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (NYSBEMS) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) states: Must be 17 years of age by the end of the month in which they are scheduled to take the written certification examination. For further information see…https://regs.health.ny.gov/content/section-8006-initial-certification-requirements
14. A junior firefighter may enroll in a state accredited EMT program at 17 years of age by following the fire district chain of command and meeting NYSBEMS age qualifications. The state accredited EMT program is paid for by the fire district upon passing completion of class and state exam.
15. Junior firefighters enrolled in an EMT class may ride in the ambulance accompanied by and under the guidance of a Pleasant Valley Fire District EMS Division EMT. At any point, a Chief, an EMS Division Line Officer, an EMS Division EMT or Career FF/EMT may request the Junior

Firefighter step off the ambulance and not respond to certain delicate or inappropriate 911 EMS calls. Failure to follow direct orders, will result in immediate termination of membership.

16. Junior firefighters enrolled in EMT class, may not respond to EMS calls in their private vehicle. They must respond to EMS calls on the ambulance, fire apparatus, Chief's vehicle, or district support vehicle.

All active Junior Firefighters are subject to all the policies set forth by the Pleasant Valley Fire District, the bylaws of the Pleasant Valley Fire Company # 1 and the Salt Point Fire Company.

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